

Big Valley Grace Lay Counseling Ministry Application Process

It is a process! Please prayerfully and thoroughly complete this application. Lay Counseling is not for everyone, though you may have a heart for hurting people, counseling may not be your gift. It is our desire to help you search and know the will of God for your life in this area of ministry.

As a loving church, every day we face the reality of how we effectively minister to the needs of a world full of hurting and broken people. Our desire is to provide support, truth, and healing for those within the BVG family, as well as the community at large, through biblically based lay counseling. Working hand in hand with other ministries of Big Valley Grace, our counselors would be trained and available for prayer support, mentoring and biblical guidance.

Our Vision

To help all those who are broken and hurting find truth, healing, and healthy relationships through Christ's power.

Our Mission

Love God, love people, and make disciples through clinically responsible and biblically integrated counseling.

Our Purpose

To accomplish the mission of Big Valley Grace by providing meaningful and practical biblical support for people, couples and families in need. In addition, we connect them to other areas of assistance as needed.

Requirements and Responsibilities of a Lay Counselor

- * Big Valley Grace membership, regular attendance and small group participation
- * Completed Application
- * Pastoral Recommendation
- * Accountable to leadership supervision
- * Ongoing continuing education and personal growth
- * Also recommend: the completion of Step Study

If you do not meet the above requirements and you feel God calling you to this ministry, we encourage you to complete those areas that are required. The 30 week training will be given annually.

Sincerely,

Scott Stubbert

Associate Pastor of Recovery & Counseling Ministries

FAQ's

What is lay counseling?

Lay counseling is a time-limited relationship to provide support to work through a specific issue, struggle or crisis. In addition counseling seeks to improve relationship skills in which non-professionals or para-professionals try to help a person, couple or family deal effectively with the stresses of life.

Is there a cost to the training?

The cost for the 30 week training is \$85, which represents a 50% discount off the actual cost. The balance will be covered by the Lay counseling department.

Are there scholarships available? No.

Will everyone who applies be accepted into the program?

No. Often people have the heart but may not be gifted in counseling. Because we are dealing with real life difficulties, our screening process is intensive and bathed in pray by the board who oversees the ministry.

If I'm accepted how long will the training take?

30 weeks. Meetings are weekly on Wednesday night from 6:30 until 8:00 PM.

If I miss a session, can I make it up?

This is at the discretion of the Director of Counseling and will be decided case by case. Our hope is that you are fully committed to the process, but we understand emergencies arise.

Who oversees the Lay Counseling ministry?

The Lay counseling ministry has a board of directors that includes the Pastor of Recovery & Counseling, Associate Pastor of Recovery & Counseling, current Lay Counselors, and a licensed marriage and family therapist.

How will I know if I am accepted into the program?

After your application is complete and all referral letters have been received, you will be called for an interview with the Associate Pastor of Recovery & Counseling. A letter of acceptance or denial will follow that meeting.

Will I be paid for my time as a Lay counselor?

No. Lay counseling is a volunteer ministry. You will not be on staff at BVG and you will not receive compensation for your time.

Will additional or ongoing training be required?

Because it is important to stay current on methods and materials, there will be ongoing training required. This is still under advisement.

Big Valley Grace Community Church

PERSONAL DATA

4040 Tully Road Modesto CA 95356 (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

NAME _____

STREET _____ CITY: _____ ZIP: _____

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER: _____ - _____ - _____ DATE OF BIRTH ____/____/____

HOME PHONE: (____) _____ WORK PHONE: (____) _____

OCCUPATION: _____

EDUCATION:

Please list educational background, beginning with the most recent.

HEALTH:

Are you currently under any medical or psychological treatment? If "yes" please explain.

OBLIGATIONS:

What obligations do you have that could hinder or prevent you from fulfilling your duties as a Lay Counselor?

PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP TO CHRIST

A. Briefly share when and how you came to know the Lord.

B. How would you describe your current relationship to God?

C. In what church activities/ministries are you currently involved? Are you in a leadership position?

COUNSELING MINISTRY

A. How did you decide counseling is a ministry that you wish to be involved in?

B. What strengths do you possess which you bring to this ministry?

C. In what areas might you struggle in this ministry?

D. What are your hobbies? – How do you spend your free time?

E. What satisfactions do you get out of life?

F. Describe any counseling you have done whether in a peer relationship or in a more formal setting. Include the type of counseling; individual, group, marriage, family, intake, crisis, etc.; and the duration of your experience.

AVAILABILITY

When would you be available for ministry? (Date) _____

What days, time of day and number of hours would you be available?

LEGAL HISTORY

Have you been convicted of a felony within the last 7 years? _____ (Conviction will not necessarily disqualify applicant.) If "yes", please explain.

I hereby affirm that I have not committed either a child-abuse related or a sex-abuse related offense.

Signature _____ Date: ____/____/_____

FORMER EMPLOYMENT AND STUDENT/ VOLUNTEER PLACEMENTS

Please note all your employers, and volunteer or student placements within the last 7 years, indicating whether you served as an employee, student or volunteer. Include a person whom we can contact for a reference.

Name _____
Address _____ City _____
State _____ Zip _____ Phone (_____) _____

Name _____
Address _____ City _____
State _____ Zip _____ Phone (_____) _____

Name _____
Address _____ City _____
State _____ Zip _____ Phone (_____) _____

Name _____
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Name _____
Address _____ City _____
State _____ Zip _____ Phone (_____) _____

Name _____
Address _____ City _____
State _____ Zip _____ Phone (_____) _____

I hereby release the above from any and all liability resulting from such disclosure. Signature _____
Date ____/____/____

CHARACTER AND CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE REFERENCES

Please indicate two people whom we may contact to provide character and / or Christian experience references.

I hereby authorize

NAME _____

Relationship _____

Address _____ City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Home Phone (____) _____ Work Phone (____) _____

NAME _____

Relationship _____

Address _____ City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Home Phone (____) _____ Work Phone (____) _____

To disclose to the Associate Pastor of Recovery & Counseling of Big Valley Grace Community Church and /or her placement consultants any and all information regarding my character and / or Christian experience which would be relevant in assessing my suitability to serve as a volunteer Lay counselor at Big Valley Grace Community Church.

I understand that the purpose of this disclosure is to assess my suitability to serve as a volunteer, and that it will not be used for any other purposes. I hereby release the above from any and all liability resulting from such disclosure.

Signature _____ Date ____/____/____

I certify that all statements on this application are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Signature _____ Date ____/____/____

(Do not write below this line: for office use only.)

Photographic Identification:

STATEMENT OF FAITH AND MISSION STATEMENT

Statement of Faith

We believe and accept the following statements as essentials for the unity and practice of the members of this church:

1. THE AUTHORITY OF THE BIBLE (II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:19-21) We believe the 66 books of Old and New Testaments are a complete and final revelation from God, without error in the original autographs, and sufficient in themselves as our only rule of faith and practice.
2. THE TRIUNITY OF GOD (Matthew 28:19; II Corinthians 13:14) We believe that God is one, manifesting Himself in three distinct and separate Persons; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, each of Whom is God and to be honored and worshiped as God.
3. THE PERSON AND WORK OF JESUS CHRIST (Matthew 1:23; John 1:1, 14, 29; 3:16; I Corinthians 15:3, 4, 12-19; Hebrews 4:15; I John 2:1-2; Acts 1:9-11) We believe that Jesus Christ is God manifest in the flesh, born of a virgin, sinless, crucified for our sins, resurrected from the dead, ascended to heaven, and coming back again to establish His Kingdom on earth.
4. THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (John 3:5; 14:16-17; 16:7-13; Romans 8:14; I Corinthians 6:11, 19; 12:13; Galatians 5:16-17; Ephesians 4:30; 5:18-21) We believe the Holy Spirit is God, convicting the world, causing spiritual birth, baptizing all believers into one body in Christ, indwelling, sealing, sanctifying, guiding, and teaching every believer, as well as filling and controlling those who walk in obedience to God and His Word.
5. THE CREATION AND FALL OF MAN (Genesis 1:26-28; 2:7; 3:1-24; Romans 3:23; 5:12; Ephesians 2:3) We believe that man was created by God in His own image, and not the product of evolution or animal ancestry; that he fell into sin by personal disobedience to the revealed will of God, and that all men and women are sinful in nature and practice, and unable to save themselves.
6. THE SALVATION OF MAN (John 3:16; 14:6; Acts 16:31; Romans 3:24; 6:23; 10:9-10; Ephesians 2:8-10; Titus 3:5; I Peter 1:18-19, 22-25; I John 5:11-13) We believe that salvation is the free gift of God's grace, from sin, death and hell, to everyone who believes in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Every believer has eternal life and complete security in the finished work of Jesus Christ when He died on the cross for our sins, and arose from the dead, thus guaranteeing our own resurrection and eternal life.
7. HUMAN DESTINY (Matthew 25:46; John 3:16; 5:24; 10:28-29; Romans 9:22-24; II Corinthians 5:8, I Thessalonians 1:9-10; 4:13-18; II Thessalonians 1:7-10; Jude 23-24 ; Revelation 20:11-15) We believe in the eternal life of all believers in a new heaven and a new earth, and that upon physical death, they go immediately to be with Christ in heaven awaiting their future bodily resurrection at the second coming of Christ, and in the resurrection of all unbelievers to stand before the Great White Throne Judgment of God from which they will be cast into eternal fire and everlasting punishment.

8. THE EXISTENCE OF SATAN & EVIL (Isaiah 14:13-14; Ezekiel 28:13-17; Matthew 12:24-26; John 8:44; 12:31-32; II Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 2:1-3; 6:12-18; Revelation 12:9-10; 20:10) We believe that all angels, including Satan, were created by God, and that Satan, through pride and sinful ambition, rebelled against God, becoming the great adversary of God and His people. These spirit beings possess supernatural powers, but are limited by the permissive will of God. Satan, as leader of evil angels, demons, was defeated and judged at the cross of Jesus Christ, and his final destiny is everlasting punishment in the lake of fire, hell.

9. THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST (Matthew 16:18; 28:19-20; John 13:1-17; Acts 2:41-47; I Corinthians 11:17-34; I Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18) We believe that all believers from the day of Pentecost in Acts 2 until the return of Jesus Christ are members of the Church, the body of Christ, and that the visible manifestation on earth is local churches where believers assemble for teaching, fellowship, prayer, and observance of Christ's commands regarding baptism and communion.

We believe in water baptism by immersion in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and in remembering the night our Lord was with His disciples in the Upper Room by regularly observing the Lord's Supper.

10. THE GREAT COMMISSION (Matthew 9:36-38; 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47-48; Acts 1:8; 8:1, 4; Romans 10:13-15; I Corinthians 9:13- 14) We believe that our Lord commanded us to preach the Gospel and to make disciples of all nations, and that every believer is to be a witness for Jesus Christ, trusting in the power of the Holy Spirit; and that we are responsible to pray for, support, and send missionaries into all the world.

LAY COUNSELING MISSION STATEMENT

As a loving church, every day we face the reality of how we effectively minister to the needs of a world full of hurting and broken people. Our desire is to provide support, truth, and healing for those within the Big Valley Grace (BVG) family as well as the larger community through biblically based lay counseling.

Working hand in hand with other ministries of BVG, our counselors would be available for prayer support, mentoring and biblical guidance.

Our vision is to love God, love people and make disciples through clinically responsible and biblically integrated counseling.

In keeping with the mission of BVG, we will seek to provide meaningful and practical biblical support for people, couples and families in need. In addition, we connect them to other areas of assistance as needed.

Our ministry is free of charge; however donations will be accepted to offset administrative expenses.

I have read, subscribe to, and will endeavor to work within the parameters of Big Valley Grace Lay Counseling Ministry's statement of faith and mission.

Signature _____ Date _____/_____/_____

AUTHORIZATION FOR BACKGROUND AND RECORDS CHECK

I understand that Big Valley Grace Lay Counseling Ministry's policy for screening and selecting volunteer includes a background and records check pertinent to suitability for employment, volunteer, or student status with BVG Lay Counseling ministry.

In keeping with this policy, I hereby authorize BVG Lay Counseling Ministry to access the following records:

Criminal Records Check:

Please include each state in which you have lived and / or practiced in the last 7 years.

I hereby request the

Police Department (s) to release any information which pertains to any record of convictions contained in its files or in any criminal file maintained on me whether local, state or national.

Send records to: Big Valley Grace Community Church
 Associate Pastor of Recovery & Counseling Ministries
 4040 Tully Rd Modesto CA 95356 Phone (209) 571-4388

Print name of record to be released _____

Print maiden name (if applicable) _____

Print all aliases _____

Date of birth ____/____/____

Place of birth City/ Town

State / Province _____

Social Security Number ____/____/____ Driver's License State _____

Number

SITE PERSONNEL CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT

As an employee, volunteer, or intern, or acting in any other capacity in connection with BVG Lay Counseling Ministry, I agree to the following:

All files, charts, notes and other written material concerning clients or former clients will be secured when not being used.

All discussion concerning clients or former clients will be held in staff offices or other places which assure privacy.

No privileged information about clients or former clients will be discussed with families and /or friends

No privileged information, whether written or verbal, will be shared with agencies, professionals, or support persons, without prior written authorization by the client – unless the client is incapable, either physically or mentally, of giving such a release.

Only the counselor and the counselor’s immediate professional supervisor and/ or consultants, and the pastor shall have access to an individual clients’ file.

Only the Pastor, clinical supervisor (s) and intake assistant on duty shall have access to locked counseling file cabinets.

Signature _____ Date ____/____/_____

Personal Reference Letter – (Three required)

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

The applicant listed below has request a letter of reference from you to be considered for the Lay Counseling Ministry at Big Valley Grace Community Church. Please answer the following question about the applicant.

APPLICANT _____ PHONE _____

How long have you known the applicant?

Describe your relationship with the applicant, please be specific.

What gifts does the applicant possess that make you comfortable recommending them for a lay counseling ministry?

Please list the applicant's strengths and weaknesses.

Strengths:

Weaknesses:

PLEASE RETURN THIS REFERENCE TO THE ADDRESS BELOW.

DO NOT RETURN TO THE APPLICANT.

Scott Stubbert: Associate Pastor of Recovery & Counseling Ministries

BIG VALLEY GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH 4040 TULLY RD, MODESTO CA 95350

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Weaknesses:

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Scott Stubbert: Associate Pastor of Recovery & Counseling Ministries

BIG VALLEY GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH 4040 TULLY RD, MODESTO CA 95356